Vacant Post of STs

2607. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise number of posts of scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments;

(b) whether the persons other than those are working on these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are taking any steps to fill up the entire backlog; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) One vacancy each of Private Secretary (Group-B); Personal Assistant (Group-B); and Upper Division Clerk (Group-C) reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates exist in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Steel. The Ministry of Steel has no Department under its administrative control.

(b) and (c) As per the existing procedure, these vacancies were communicated to the Department of Personnel and Training (DPT), Government of India, for nomination of eligible candidates. Nominations of eligible candidates by DPT are awaited. Pending availability of eligible candidates, the existing vacancies reserved for them have been filled, as a purely temporary measure, by appointment of other candidates on an ad-hoc basis, due to adminstrative exigencies.

(d) and (e) Filling of backlog vacancies will depend upon the availability of eligible candidates nominated by DPT, as per procedure.

[English]

Frequency of Hirakud Express

2608. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the frequency of Hirakud Express from New Delhi to Titilagarh;

(b) if so, the time by whch the frequency of the said train is likely to be increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no proposal at present to increase the frequency of Hirakud Express.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational reasons.

Demands of STD/ISD Booth Owners

2609. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the STD/ISD Booth Owners of Bangalore city have submitted any memorandum to the Chief General Manager of Karnataka Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal from STD/ISD booth owners, contained in the memorandum include raising rates of commission, allotment of extra lines and new lines, payment of bills through cheques, maintenance and transfer of telephone lines, revision of tariffs, security arrangment for booths operated by ladies, payment of Security deposit and collection of extra service charges.

(c) At present there is no proposal to review the existing policy in respect of rate of commission, service charges, tariff, security deposit, additional lines etc.

Pact on Liquid Fuel Pricing

2610. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "IPPs may renegotiate pacts over liquid fuel pricing" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 11.7.97;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of representations/communications received from the independent power producers to this effect; and

(d) the action/decision taken thereon proposal-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d) The article has highlighted that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) of liquid fuel based power projects may have to renegotiate the Power Purchase Agreements in view of Government of India's decisions on fuel pricing and import arrangements. Government of India has also received several representations from the IPPs. SEPs and State Governments with regard to the draft Fuel Supply Agreement proposed by the oil industry. These representations will be taken into account in finalising the Fuel Supply Agreement.